

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 9, 2007, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment claims 2 and 8 are cancelled, leaving claims 1, 3-7, and 9-16 pending.

Applicants express appreciation for the personal interview granted to their representatives on June 26, 2007.

Applicants bring to the Examiner's attention U.S. Patent 5,273,400 in a simultaneously filed Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 7-16 were allowed. Some minor amendments are made in those claims, particularly in view of the amendments of other claims. Claims 7 and 9-13 should still be allowable and should be allowed as depending from amended claim 1. Claim 14 has been rewritten as an independent claim. Claims 14-16 should be immediately allowed.

Claims 3, 5, and 6 were objected to, but not rejected. Those claims are clarified, but not substantively amended and are still allowable.

Examined claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected as anticipated by a Published Japanese Utility Model (JP 63-036697, hereinafter Toshiba). This rejection is respectfully traversed as to the claims now presented, as discussed below.

In this Amendment examined claims 1 and 2 are combined, with some clarification. In addition, the range of the ratio of the inner diameter of the bell mouth to the outer diameter of the impeller is described as being from 50% to 85%. Examined claim 2 included only the lower limit of this range. This range is particularly important in achieving the desired performance of the claimed blower as described from page 20, line 21 to page 21, line 18 of the patent application in connection with Figures 11 and 12. By providing a ratio within the claimed range, a desirable increase in static pressure that can be applied at the input side of the blower while still producing high volume air flow is achieved, along with a reduction in the

noise produced by the blower, as compared to axial blowers. The air flow capacity achieved is comparable to the flow rate achieved with an axial fan.

Clearly, there is no description in Toshiba for the claimed range, only the graphical examples of Figure 6(A) and 6(B). Of those examples, only Figure 6(A) corresponds to a structure including a bell mouth. Even if Figure 6(A) were drawn to scale, it cannot meet nor suggest the limitations of amended claim 1. Thus, that claim and its dependent claims 2 and 7-13 should be allowed. Of course, as already described, claims 7-13 were already conceded to be allowable.

Claim 4 is amended for clarity. Claim 4 is supported by many described embodiments of the patent application. See, for example, pages 14 and 15 of the patent application and Figure 4. Examined claim 4, when read in conjunction with pages 14 and 15 of the patent application, was entirely clear. However, because the original claim 4 language may not have been easy to interpret, claim 4 is revised in accordance with the description of the patent application.

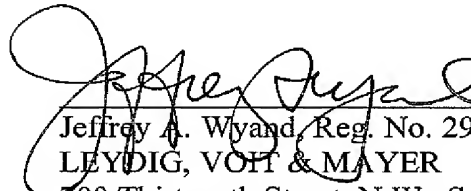
In view of the amendment of claim 4, claims 5 and 6 are amended to be consistent with the language of amended claim 4.

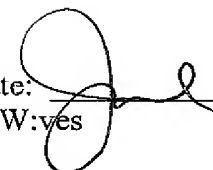
Toshiba cannot anticipate claim 4, either as presented or as clarified here. While there is no English language counterpart of Toshiba, it is apparent that the structure shown in Figure 6(A) of Toshiba includes an impeller having blades 20 with peripheral pointed tips that project towards the opening 23 of what appears to be a bell mouth 22. Nevertheless, no parts of the blades 20 ever project into recesses of the bell mouth, that is, never extend to positions in the direction of the opening of the bell mouth and beyond that opening. In fact, it does not appear from any figure of Toshiba that those peripheral tips of the blades 20 even reach the plane that includes the opening of the bell mouth 22. Thus, there can be no anticipation of claim 4,

particularly as presented here. Upon reconsideration, the rejection of claim 4 should be withdrawn.

Since all claims now pending distinguish from the prior art, claims 1, 3-7, and 9-16 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Wyand, Reg. No. 29,458
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: 
JAW:ves